NUMB. CXXXVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Utitur in re non Dubia teſtibus non neceſſariis. Tull.

Wedneſday, Auguſt 8. 1711.

ONE meets now and then with Perſons who are extreamly learned and knotty in Expounding clear Cases. *Tully* tells us of an Author that ſpent ſome Pages to ſhew that Generals could not perform the Great Things which have made them ſo illuſtrious if they had not had Men. He aſſerted alſo, it ſeems, that a Miniſter at home, no more than a Commander abroad, could do any thing without other Men to be his Inſtruments and Aſſiſtants. On this Occaſion he produces the Example of *Themiſtocles*, *Pericles*, *Cyrus* and *Alexander* himſelf, whom he denies to have been capable of effecting what they did, except they had been followed by others. It is pleaſant enough to ſee ſuch Perſons contend without Opponents, and triumph without Victory.

The Author above-mention'd by the Orator, is ridiculous for ever in a very ridiculous Light, and we meet every Day in Converſation ſuch as deſerve the ſame kind of Renown for troubling thoſe with whom they Converſe with the like Certainties. The Perſons that I have always thought to deſerve the higheſt Admiration in this kind are your ordinary Story-tellers, who are moſt religiouſly careful of keeping to the Truth in every particular Circumſtance of a Narration, whether it concern the main end, or not. A Gentleman whom I had the Honour to be in Company with the other Day, upon ſome Occaſion that he was pleas'd to take, to ſhew, He remember'd a very pretty Repartee made by a very Witty Man in King *Charles*'s time upon the like Occaſion. I remember (ſaid he, upon entring into the Tale) much about the time of *Oates*'s Plot, that a Couſin-German of mine and I were at the Play in *Holborn*: No, I am out, it was at the *Croſs Keys*, but *Jack Thomſon* was there, for he was very well with the Gentleman who made the Anſwer. But I am ſure it was ſpoken ſome where thereabouts, for we drank a Bottle in that Neighbourhood every Evening: But no matter for all that, the thing is the ſame; but——

He was going on to ſettle the Geography of the Jeſt when I left the Room, wondering at this odd turn of Head which can play away its Words, with uttering nothing to the purpoſe, ſtill obſerving its own Impertinencies, and yet proceeding in them. I do not queſtion but he inform'd the reſt of his Audience, who had more Patience than I, of the Birth and Parentage, as well as the Collateral Alliances of his Family who made the Repartee, and of him who provoked him to it.

It is no ſmall Misfortune to any who have a juſt value for their Time, when this Quality of being ſo very Circumſtantial, and careful to be exact, happens to ſhow it ſelf in a Man whoſe Quality obliges them to attend his Proofs, that it is now Day, and the like. But this is augmented when the ſame Genius gets into Authority, as it often does. Nay, I have known it more than once aſcend the very Pulpit. One of this ſort taking it in his Head to be a great Admirer of Dr. *Tillotſon* and Dr. *Beveridge*, never fail'd of proving out of theſe great Authors things which no Men living would have denied him upon his ſingle Authority. One Day reſolving to come to the point in hand, he ſaid, According to that excellent Divine, I will enter upon the Matter, or in his Words in his fifteenth Sermon of the Folio Edition, Page 160,

I ſhall briefly explain the Words, and then conſider the Matter contained in them.

This honeſt Gentleman needed not, one would think, ſtrain his Modeſty ſo far as to alter his deſign of *Entring into the Matter*, to that of *Briefly explaining*.

plaining. But ſo it was, that he would not even be contented with that Authority, but added alſo the other Divine to ſtrengthen his Method, and told us, With the Pious and Learned Dr. *Beveridge*, Page 4th of his 9th Volume, *I ſhall endeavour to make it as plain as I can from the Words which I have now read, wherein for that Purpoſe we ſhall conſider* —— This Wiſeacre was reckoned by the Pariſh, who did not underſtand him, a moſt Excellent Preacher, but that he read too much, and was ſo Humble that he did not truſt enough to his own Parts.

Next to theſe ingenious Gentlemen, who argue for what no body can deny them, are to be ranked a ſort of People who do not indeed attempt to prove inſignificant things, but are ever labouring to raiſe Arguments with you about Matters you will give up to them without the leaſt Controverſy. One of theſe People told a Gentleman who ſaid he ſaw Mr. ſuch a one go this Morning at nine a Clock towards the *Gravel-Pits*, Sir, I muſt beg your Pardon for that, for tho' I am very loath to have any Diſpute with you, yet I muſt take the Liberty to tell you it was nine when I ſaw him at St. *James's*. When Men of this Genius are pretty far gone in Learning they will put you to prove that Snow is White, and when you are upon that Topick can ſay that there is really no ſuch thing as Colour in Nature; in a Word, they can turn what little Knowledge they have into a ready Capacity of raiſing Doubts; into a Capacity of being always frivolous and always unanſwerable. It was of two Diſputants of this impertinent and laborious kind that the Cynick ſaid, *One of theſe Fellows is Milking a Ram, and the other holds the Pail.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Exerciſe of the Snuff-Box, according to the moſt faſhionable Airs and Motions, in oppoſition to the Exerciſe of the Fan, will be Taught with the beſt plain or perfum'd Snuff, at Charles Lillie's, *Perfumer, at the Corner of* Beauford-Buildings *in the* Strand, *and Attendance given for the benefit of the young Merchants about the Exchange for two Hours every Day at Noon, except* Saturdays, *at a Toy-Shop near* Garraway's *Coffee-houſe. There will be likewiſe Taught* The Ceremony of the Snuff-Box, *or Rules for offering Snuff to a Stranger, a Friend, or a Miſtreſs, according to the Degrees of Familiarity or Diſtance; with an Explanation of the Careleſs, the Scornful, the Politick, and the Surly Pinch, and the Geſtures proper to each of them.*

N. B. *The Undertaker does not queſtion but in a ſhort time to have form'd a Body of Regular Snuff-Boxes ready to meet and make Head againſt the Regiment of Fans which have been lately Diſciplin'd, and are now in Motion.*

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of July, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Tregancy, near Eſſex-Street; Mrs. Boulter next the Roſe Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Roundin Exchange Alley, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane; where alſo may be had thoſe for the Months of March, April, May and June.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality,
Acted but twice theſe Twenty Years.
By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane on Friday next, being the 10th of this Inſtant Auguſt, will be preſented the laſt Revived Comedy, Call'd The Volunteers, or the Stock-Jobbers. Written by the Ingenious Mr. Shadwell, late Poet-Laureat. The Part of Sir Nicholas Dainty, a Volunteer, to be perform'd by Mr. Pack, and the Part of old Colonel Hackwell, a Stock-Jobber, by Mr. Norris, General Blunt Mr. Croſs, Colonel Hackwell Jun. Mr. Bullock, Welford Mr. Mills, Nickum Mr. Bullock Jun. Hop Mr. Burkhead, Teresia Mrs. Saunders, Fulvia Mrs. Bradſhaw, Clarinda Mrs. Porter, Winnifred Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Hackwell Mrs. Powell, and the Part of Timothy Katril by Mr. Pinkethman, being the Laſt time of acting it this Seaſon.

R. Stoughton, Apothecary, in Southwark, having ſome Time ſince, by Order of a Merchant, ſent 30 Dozen of his Cordial Elixir to Sweden, has received Advice that Numbers of People finding it a great Preſervative of Health, drink it every Morning: And further aſſures it is ſo, with a Certificate from those That (to the Perſon's moſt Knowledge and Obſervation) not one who took it hath died of the Diſeaſe, and many are of Opinion it hath been of great Uſe in ſtopping the Progreſs of it. He hath alſo a Certificate on board a Ship at Jamaica, That after 6 or 7 of the Men died in 24 Hours of a malignant Diſtemper, the Captain himſelf (fearing he ſhould loſe all his Men) gave the reſt, who were ſeiz'd, plentifully of the Elixir, (which for many Years he took with him) and by God's Bleſſing on it ſaved every Man after. He is not only willing, but deſires it may be publiſh'd for the Good of others. Few now will go to Sea travel without it: The Certificates themſelves any Gentleman may ſee if they pleaſe. *N.B.* Another large Box is juſt now ordered upon Sweden. He is alſo inform'd the Czar's Phyſicians have ordered it into the Army.

Juſt Publiſh'd very neat and Correct Editions of the following Books, viz.

The Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher, in 7 Volls. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts. Plutarch's Lives in 5 Volls. tranſlated by ſeveral hands. Seneca's Morals tranſlated by Sir Roger L'Eſtrange. The Satyrs of Decimus Junius Juvenalis, &c. tranſlated into Engliſh Verſe by Mr. Dryden and ſeveral other eminent Hands. The Works of Mr. Congreve in 3 Volls. containing all of his Plays and Poems. Poems on ſeveral Occaſions written by Mr. Prior. Paradiſe loſt, a Poem, in 12 Books, by Mr. John Milton. The Chriſtian Hero, written by Mr. Steele. N. B. The three laſt are printed with a neat Elziver Letter in ſmall Pocket Volumes: All printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

The Retir'd Gard'ner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs and Under-Shrubs, neceſſary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. To which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Diſpoſing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Columns, and other Pieces and Compartments uſually found in the moſt beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Tranſlation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Deſcription and Plan of Count Tallard's Gardens at Nottingham. The whole Revis'd, with ſeveral Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our Engliſh Culture, by George London, and Henry Wiſe. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine-Street in the Strand.

An Account of the preſent State and Government of the Empire of Germany: In a Letter to Thomas Foley of Worcheſter, Eſq; by M. Le Vaſſor. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.